

REMARKS

Claims 10-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 6-9 are canceled and claims 10-23 are added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the April 7, 2004, personal interview and the April 29 telephone interview. The substance of the discussions are incorporated into the following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,404,277 to Lindblad in view of U.S. Patent 6,025,894 to Shirasaki et al. and claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lindblad in view of Shirasaki and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,975,711 to Parker et al. These rejections are moot.

With respect to new independent claim 10, Lindblad does not disclose only a first part of the first principal plane being overlapped by the light guide element. Instead, in Lindblad the light pipe 10 is completely over dies 12 and 13.

With respect to new independent claims 16 and 21, Lindblad does not disclose a second principal plane partially overlapped by a light guide element. Instead, in Lindblad the plane of dies 12 and 13 is completely overlapped by the light guide. Shirasaki and Parker do not provide the deficiencies of Lindblad.

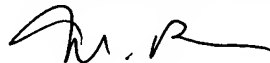
With respect to new independent claim 20, Lindblad does not disclose light emitted from the light emitting device entering an inside of the light guide element through at least two planes of the light guide element. Instead, Lindblad discloses that light enters through a single plane. See, e.g., Fig. 2. Shirasaki and Parker do not provide the deficiencies of Lindblad.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MQB/ale

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: May 12, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--